2: Musters T-5 (1869-1870)1873
SHS Tehuelche SHS

being performed on horseback. Their hair, which is of no[62]
great length, scarcely indeed equalling that of the men, and
very coarse, is worn in two plaited tails, which on gala days[63]
are artificially lengthened, probably with horse-hair inter-
woven with lime bands, the ends being garnished with silver[64]
pendants. This practice, however, is confined, I think, to
the unmarried ladies.

Being an admirer of long hair, on my first joining the[302]
Indians I greatly admired Yokang's daughter for her 'head
of hair,' two immensely long tails beautifully embellished,
which I naturally thought was all her own. But, meeting
her by chance on the following morning returning to the tolde
with water, to my great disappointment I found that she
had taken her spare hair off, and her natural locks were the
reverse of long. The young women are frequently good-[303]
looking, displaying healthy, ruddy cheeks when not disguised
with paint. They are modest in behaviour, though very
coquettish, and as skilled in flirtation as if they had been[304]
taught in more civilized society. The fair widow who so
nearly hooked the Englishman could on occasions appeal as
prettily for help as a young lady in imaginary difficulties
over a country stile. Thus, when at Orkeke's request I led the
way through a river—half way across the channel suddenly
deepened, with muddy bottom, and an abrupt bank to land
on—I heard a plaintive appeal, 'Master, help me! my horse
is too small.' Exposure and work do not age them as[305]
soon as might be expected, but when old they become most
hideous beldames, and the most weird-like witches imagined
by Doré would be surpassed by a trio of Tehuelche
grandames. The dress of the men consists of a chiripa,[306]
or under garment round the loins, made of a poncho, a piece
of cloth, or even of a guanaco mantle; but, whatever the ma-
terial, this article of dress is indispensable and scrupulously[307]
worn, their sense of decency being very strong. All other
garments are supplied by the capacious and warm skin
mantle, which, worn with the fur inside and the painted side